Implementation of HUssainy Committee recommendations pertaining to Westland Helicopters

1196. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRj ASHWANI KUMAR-.
SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVI A. TION be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Westland Helicopters have been grounded;

(b) if so, what is the number thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what has been the average cost of maintenance of a Westland Helicopter and how it would compare after the implementation of the Hussainy Cornmittee recommendations;

(d) how does the cost of maintenance of a Westland Helicopter compare with the cost of maintenance of othe$_r$ Helicopters;

(e) whether Government had taken into account this factor while taking a decision to accept this Helicopter; if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether Government propose to review the services of the Helicopter Corporation of India if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRf HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The entire fleet of ninteen Westland Helicopters was grounded with effect from 21st Decern, ber, 1989 pending an inquiry into the operational and safety aspects of these helicopters by an Expert Committee. Following the recommendations of thig Cornmittee, Westland helicopters have recently been reinducted inlo service. At present six of these helicopters are flying for ONGc and Oil India Limited;

(c) The average cost of maintenance of Westland helicopters including reserve for overhaul is estimated to he Rs. 26, 634 per hour. This does not include customs duties, freight insurance etc.

The costs and liabilities involved in maintenance after implementation of the modifications recommended by the Expert Committee are yet t_0 be attributed and hence a proper comparisicn is not possible at this stage.

(d) While the average maintenance cost of Westland helicopters is estimated at Rs. 26, 634 per hour it is estimated at Rs. 13, 348 per hour for Dauphin helicopters, which is the other helicopter operated by Pawan Hans Limited.

(e) The maintenance cost estimated at th© time of purchase of Westland and Dauphin helicopters was Rs.., " 5901/- and Rs. 3981/- per hour respectively. The differential in maintenance cost was compensated by Westland Helicopters Ltd by way of
a lump sum operating subsidy of 10 million equivalent to Rs. 18. 91 crores.

(f) As stated above, the Westland helicopters have since been reinduct ed into service.

Development of Alternative Fuels

1197. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENERGY be plea-, sed to state the steps being taken by Government for the development of alternative fuels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABAN RAO DHAKANE): The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (DNES) has made considerable headway in developing biogas and producer gas as alternative fuels for cooking, lightng and small socale decentralised power generation. A Pilot Project for generation of 10 MW ^ power with surplus rice straw as fuel is also nearing completion in Punjab. Research for developing Hydrogen as a fuel is being carried out. Use of solar energy for cooking, lighting and water and space heating is being accelerated

As regards transportation sector an expert committee set up by the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals is currently examining the possibility of inter fuel-substitution by use of methanol/ethanol/CNGjLPG. Further action will be concretised on receipt of Committee's recommendations. Whilst the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is experimenting with use of compressed Natural Gas for tranportation; the DNES is developing technology and demonstrating; (a) the use of Battery Operated Vehicles to be charged during off peak period, for group transport in cities, and (b) Ethanol fumigation in diesel engines of 25 DTC buses to replace diesel by about 15 per cent.

Staff Position of the Central Hindi Directorate

1198. SHRI M. VINCENT; Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3397 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th March, 1S89 and state:

(a) whether all the 21 sanctioned posts in the Tamil section of the Central Hindi Directorate have been filled up by Tamil qualified persons, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions which studied the staff position of the Department of Correpondence Courses of the Directorate submitted their report in March, 1990;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the report is still pending implementation; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOMENT (SHRI BHA-GEY GOBARDHAN): (a) Out of the posts allocated for Tamil Section of Correspondence Courses Wing proficiency in Tamil is required, under the rules, for appointment to 4 posts only (3 Evaluators and one Technical Assistant). 2 Tamil Evaluatorg have since been appointed. Offer of appointment has been sent to remaining one post also. One post of Technical Assistant is vacant. Action to fill up thi$_s$ vacancy has also been initiated (b) to (d) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions undertook study of the Correspondence Courses Wing of the Directorate with a view to streamlining procedural aspects of the functioning of the Correspondence Courses Wing of the Directorate.

Ban on Substandard Medicines

1199. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FA WILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Madhya Pradesh Chronicle of 18th September, 1990, to the effect that twenty six substandard medicines have been banned; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure effective implementation of banning the marketing and manufacturing of sub-standard medicines?

THE MNISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF SHA-KEELUR REHMAN): (a) and (b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh have declared a few drugs as substandard and published the same in the leading newspapers of Madhya Pradesh for the information of the consumers. Whenever, a drug is found to be sub-standard on test, action like withdrawal of drugs from the market/ suspension/concellation of licence or prosecution is taken by state Drug Controllers under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act

Central Government has the powers to prohibit manufacture for sale of a drug/cosmetic in the public interest